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# THE TRIBUNE



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SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIF.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2005

FULL COVERAGE OF FRIDAY PREP FOOTBALL | PAGE D1

## PASO UPSETS ARROYO

Paso Robles	23	Atascadero	42	Morro Bay	31	Nipomo	14
Arroyo Grande	13	Righetti	28	Cabrillo	10	Santa Maria	13



STYLE & TRENDS | IN LIVING, C14

## How diet snacks rate

We put them to a taste test





## HELP WANTED: DEPLOYMENTS LEAVE CAMP ROBERTS SHORT-STAFFED



As interim director of personnel at Camp Roberts, Maj. Staci A. Kato's responsibilities include budgeting, contracting and helping to coordinate the mobilizations of soldiers, which consists of making out wills, arranging finances and conducting blood checks.

TRIBUNE PHOTO BY JAYSON MELLOM

# Looking for a few good temps

By NICK WILSON  
THE TRIBUNE

The past few years have marked the biggest deployment of National Guard soldiers since the Korean War, and Camp Roberts is feeling the pull directly, according to base officials.

About two dozen to three dozen of the 105 weekday staff members are on tours of duty, said base commander Col. John

Camp struggles to fill positions left vacant by National Guard members called to duty overseas

Smith. And 70 of the base's 210 Guard soldiers with monthly weekend duties are now deployed overseas.

The deployments have forced base officials to scramble to find temporary replacements and retirees, who are often hired after

their predecessors leave for training or deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries around the world.

Even with the changes, officials say the base has never been in danger of falling behind in its day-to-day operations or not com-

pleting any missions. That is because they always have enough people on hand who are familiar with the various responsibilities and can provide training, said Lisa Norris, the base's public information officer.

"It has been challenging to find people to temporarily backfill the full-timers," Norris said. "It's dif-

Please see CAMP ROBERTS, A8

### CAMP ROBERTS STAFFING BY THE NUMBERS

210

NUMBER OF NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS WHO SERVE MONTHLY WEEKEND DUTIES AT CAMP ROBERTS

33%

AMOUNT OF CAMP ROBERTS' 210 GUARD SOLDIERS WITH MONTHLY WEEKEND DUTIES WHO ARE DEPLOYED OVERSEAS

18 months

LENGTH OF TIME MOST SOLDIERS ARE AWAY, INCLUDING TRAINING AND A YEARLONG TOUR OF DUTY

3,016

NUMBER OF CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS CURRENTLY SERVING IN IRAQ



# Camp Roberts

From Page A1

difficult to find qualified people and to get them on board. ... But there has never been any doubt about getting the job done."

About 45 percent of the base's weekday staff members are civilians who can't be deployed.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, 17,989 California National Guard members have served overseas. Currently, about 6,000 state soldiers have been called upon, while 11,000 are available for emergency response at home, said Capt. Mirtha Villarreal. Of the soldiers now overseas, 3,016 are in Iraq.

Most soldiers are away for about 18 months, which includes training and usually a yearlong tour of duty.

## The local effect

Directors of three top departments at Camp Roberts have been deployed. The department of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security — called one of the installation's directorates at the base — has seen four of its leaders called off to duty. The heads of the personnel and logistics directorates also are on tours of duty.

"It's difficult for the Guard to maintain a team, because so few people are left," said Maj. Staci A. Kato, the temporary director of personnel. "But we're holding down the fort."

Some of the work at the 42,000-acre base includes weapons inventories, shooting range maintenance and emergency response planning — and even more mundane tasks such as ensuring adequate toilets are provided when large numbers of

soldiers are temporarily stationed there.

Kato, who is a 16-year Guardswoman, was working for a Los Angeles-based environmental mediation company when she was called about the personnel job at Camp Roberts more than a year ago.

The 41-year-old trains in a unit monthly and two weeks each year at Camp Roberts. She was not particularly satisfied with her job in private industry, noting it consisted of a lot of secretarial work, and decided to jump ship.

As interim director of personnel, Kato's responsibilities now include budgeting, contracting and helping to coordinate the mobilizations of soldiers, which includes making out wills, arranging finances and conducting blood checks.

Lawyers, doctors and dentists must be on hand to help with the deployment procedures, which typically take a few days. The base tries to find Guard members willing to do the work but has to contract out some workers, including dentists who perform examinations of soldiers, according to officials.

"It can be very difficult to find people willing to come for three to five days and leave their families and jobs," Kato said.

Officials say many of the permanent staff members now overseas will be returning in the next few months. Some have been corresponding with base officials by e-mail and exchanging newsletters from Camp Roberts and Iraq.

"We know that many of our staff will be coming home soon," Norris said. "It will be really great to get them back."